

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BENJAMIN HENDRIX,

Plaintiff,

v.

ARCE,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:20-cv-01307-AWI-JLT (PC)

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO POST-SCREENING ADR AND STAYING CASE FOR 90 DAYS

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding *pro se* in this civil rights action. As set forth in its screening order, the Court has found that Plaintiff states at least one cognizable claim for relief. (Doc. 20.) On August 23, 2021, Defendant filed an answer to the complaint. (Doc. 32.)

The Court is referring all civil rights cases filed by *pro se* inmates to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to attempt to resolve such cases more expeditiously and less expensively. In appropriate cases, defense counsel from the California Attorney General's Office have agreed to participate in ADR. No claims, defenses, or objections are waived by the parties' participation.

The Court, therefore, STAYS this action for 90 days to allow the parties to investigate Plaintiff's claims, meet and confer, and participate in an early settlement conference. The Court presumes that all post-screening civil rights cases assigned to the undersigned will proceed to a settlement conference. However, if, after investigating Plaintiff's claims and meeting and conferring, either party finds that a settlement conference would be a waste of resources, the

1 party may opt out of the early settlement conference. Accordingly, the Court **ORDERS**:

- 2 1. This action is STAYED for 90 days to allow the parties an opportunity to settle their
3 dispute before the discovery process begins. No pleadings or motions may be filed in
4 this case during the stay. The parties shall not engage in formal discovery, but they
5 may engage in informal discovery to prepare for the settlement conference.
- 6 2. **Within 40 days** from the date of this order, the parties SHALL file the attached
7 notice, indicating their agreement to proceed to an early settlement conference or their
8 belief that settlement is not achievable at this time.
- 9 3. **Within 45 days** from the date of this order, the assigned Deputy Attorney General
10 SHALL contact the undersigned's Courtroom Deputy Clerk at
11 shall@caed.uscourts.gov to schedule the settlement conference.
- 12 4. If the parties reach a settlement during the stay of this action, they SHALL file a
13 Notice of Settlement as required by Local Rule 160.
- 14 5. The Clerk of the Court SHALL serve via email copies of Plaintiff's second amended
15 complaint (Doc. 21), the Court's screening order (Doc. 20) and order adopting
16 findings and recommendations (Doc. 30), and this order on Supervising Deputy
17 Attorney General Lawrence Bragg, and a copy of this order on ADR Coordinator
18 Sujean Park.
- 19 6. The parties are obligated to keep the Court informed of their current addresses during
20 the stay and the pendency of this action. Changes of address must be reported
21 promptly in a Notice of Change of Address. *See* Local Rule 182(f).

22 IT IS SO ORDERED.
23

24 Dated: August 24, 2021

25 /s/ Jennifer L. Thurston
26 CHIEF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
27
28

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**NOTICE REGARDING EARLY
SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

ARCE,

Defendant.

The party believes that an early settlement conference would be productive and wishes to engage in an early settlement conference.

Yes _____ No _____

Dated:

Plaintiff or Counsel for Defendants